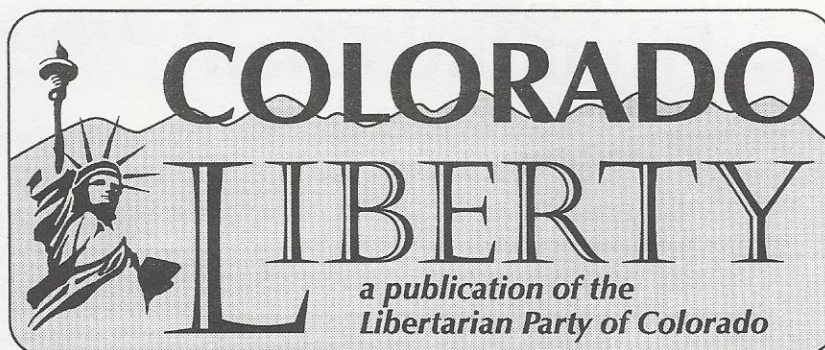


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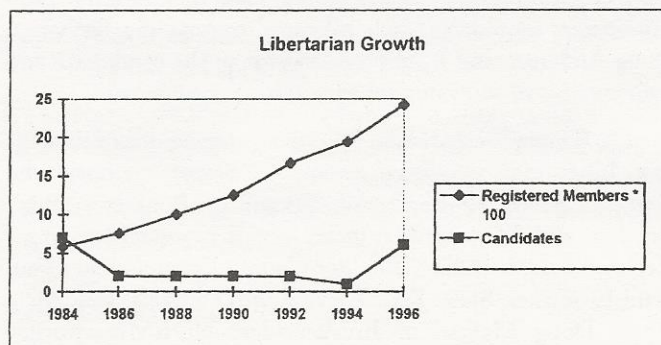
VOLUME XVIII, NUMBER 1 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1997

"Project Half a Slate in '98" Outlined

Recent history has shown strong growth in both the number of registered Colorado Libertarians and the number of Libertarians running for office in the state (see associated graph). In order to continue this trend, Campaigns Director Doug Anderson introduced Project Half a Slate in '98 to the LPC Board of Directors in November.

With the aggressive goal of running 32 Libertarian candidates for the Colorado House of Representatives in 1998, Project Half a Slate in '98 does not preclude running candidates for other statewide or local offices and meets several goals at once by targeting the State House, Anderson explained.

"Nineteen ninety-eight is an auspicious year in that term limits will for the first time limit incumbents, and 16 current members of the State House will not be able to run in 1998," Anderson said. Also, recent changes in Colorado's ballot access laws (pushed by the Libertarian Party) reduced State House candidates' petition requirements to 400 signatures or less. Another reason to target the State House, Anderson noted, is that state law requires the Libertarian Party of Colorado to run



at least one candidate at the level of State Representative or higher to retain the LP's right to register voters in the state.

Finally, there is the recently passed Campaign Finance Reform Act, which the LPC is fighting to have declared unconstitutional (see Random Notes). Even if Amendment 15 is going to be overturned, it will probably still be in effect in November 1998 and will give Libertarian candidates in Colorado the best

see *Half a Slate in '98 Planned*, page 8

Casey, Danish, Kriho to speak

Distinguished Panel to Discuss Cannabis Re-legalization

by Ron Bain, Colorado Liberty Editor

Former State Sen. Lloyd Casey—one member of a distinguished panel of speakers appearing Sunday, Jan. 19th at the Hemp/Cannabis Re-legalization Summit in Boulder—gave a preview of what summit attendants can expect when he spoke to the Denver Libertarians on Dec. 10.

Calling California's passage of Proposition 215 by a 65% majority a "stupendous mandate" for cannabis re-legalization, Sen Casey said he expected the movement to spread nationwide.

"The people of the U.S. are saying that the War on Drugs has been a failure, especially regarding this plant known as cannabis sativa and the chemical known as THC," the retiring state legislator said. Sen. Casey was author and sponsor of bills in 1995 and 1996 that would have allowed the cultivation of an experimental crop of low-THC hemp, but the bills failed after unexpected testimony by local DEA officials.

"We want to get seeds in the ground and see how well it will thrive here. But the DEA just plain lied to us and stabbed us in the back" after assuring Sen. Casey and his supporters that the federal agency would not fight the 1996 bill, Casey said. "We can't trust them."

Sen. Casey will be joined in the Re-legalization Summit's panel discussion by other Coloradans prominent in the movement to relegalize cannabis in the state: Boulder County Commissioner Paul Danish, who as a journalist has frequently advocated re-legalization; activist and jury rights advocate Laura Kriho; Doug Malkan of Breckenridge, who helped pass medical marijuana initiatives or resolutions in Breckenridge, Frisco and Telluride; and, NORML-trained attorney Warren Edson.

see *Re-legalization Summit*, page 8

From the Chair

The past year was a watershed for the Libertarian Party and many of you should take credit!

We have doubled the membership in less than two years, and we increased membership more in 1996 than we did in the prior 11 years combined! Our presidential vote totals were 62% higher than in 1992!

But to win in the future? We need to raise more money, and we need to increase our membership even more!

So, what is going on in the Libertarian Party of Colorado to make that happen?

We had a fun dinner at the Macaroni Grill honoring our 1996 Libertarian candidates. Bob Johnson oversaw the festivities; Doug Anderson and I presented awards to the candidates and their spouses to show our appreciation.

Boulder/Denver activist Ron Bain is organizing one of the biggest Libertarian-sponsored events in recent memory: the Hemp/Cannabis Re-legalization Summit in Boulder on Sunday, Jan. 19th. The panel features several prominent community members, including Boulder County Commissioner Paul Danish, former State Sen. Lloyd Casey, medical marijuana expert Doug Malkan of Breckenridge, NORML attorney Warren Edson, and jury rights advocate Laura Kriho. (Speaking of Laura, what has happened with her contempt case? The judge has not yet decided her fate, after a trial that took place Oct. 1-2. Instead of a hung jury, do we have a hung judge here?)

Mark your calendars for the LPC State Convention, scheduled for April 18-20 near Estes Park. You'll hear good speakers, par-

ticipate in the future of the state LP, and have fun meeting other Libertarians. See the next issue of *Colorado Liberty* for details.

If you have an interest in promoting Libertarian politics by participating on the LPC Board of Directors, we would welcome you to run for a board position during the elections to be held at the state convention. Some of the current board members are planning to run again, but healthy competition and new ideas always make our organization stronger. Party members are welcome to attend any board meeting to get an idea of the work we do, and to talk with any of us about the scope of a particular position.

If you would like to bid on running the next convention (in Spring 1998), please have a plan ready to present to the membership to vote on at this year's convention.

Also to be voted on at this year's convention are the following changes to the bylaws proposed by the Board of Directors. These proposed changes are intended to improve the LPC's organizational structure. Please familiarize yourself with them and be prepared to vote at the April convention:

- 1.) Combine the responsibilities of the Affiliates Director and the Membership Director into a single position called "Outreach Director."
- 2.) Add a new "Information Director" responsible for maintaining membership records, coordinating data transactions with the National LP, providing needed information (i.e., mailing labels, precinct lists, E-mail addresses), and administration of office systems including computers, telephones and payroll.
- 3.) From the description of the Legislative Director's responsibilities, delete the phrase "in the U.S. Congress."
- 4.) To the description of the responsibilities of the Publications Director, add the phrase "and a website to include the *Colorado Liberty* and other information as needed."
- 5.) Change voting procedures for board positions and bylaws changes to allow for voting by mail, e-mail or proxy.
- 6.) Change the requirement to mail the *Colorado Liberty* to *all* registered Libertarians, instead making such membership-wide mailings optional. Our intention is to continue mailing the *Colorado Liberty* to all members, but as we grow there may not be enough paid memberships to cover the costs of mailing to all the registered Libertarians who do not pay dues.

Colorado Liberty

A publication of the Libertarian Party of Colorado

Sandra Johnson, Chairman and Publisher

Ron Bain, Editor

Subscription is included in state party membership, which is extended to all those who register to vote as Libertarians, pay membership dues, or both. Paid subscriptions are \$6 per year. Make checks payable and send all correspondence to:

Libertarian Party of Colorado
720 East 18th Avenue, #309
Denver, Colorado 80203

Editorial Policy: This publication serves as an open forum for libertarian news and commentary. All remarks made in open meetings will be considered "on the record." We invite submissions (they cannot be returned) of material to the above address. Content decisions are at the sole discretion of the editor and publisher. Opinions expressed in *Colorado Liberty* are not necessarily the official positions of the Libertarian Party.

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In Liberty,
Sandra Johnson, LP of Colorado Chair

Statistics Illuminate LP's Future Path

by David Aitken, Denver LP Chairman

For those of you who were disappointed by our presidential vote totals, National Director Perry Willis has good news!

Not only was 1996 the Libertarian Party's best campaign since 1980, it provided some very important information about what we need to do to win elections.

- 1.) The LP's cost per vote was \$7.57, a number that has fluctuated in the narrow range between \$7.38 and \$7.90 since 1976.
- 2.) The LP's cost per new member recruited during a presidential campaign has declined about 83% since 1988.
- 3.) Last year's Libertarian presidential campaign raised about \$255 per national member.

If you want a million votes, do the math. \$7.57 times 1,000,000 = \$7,570,000. Divide that by \$255 per member and you find that we need 29,686 national members to raise that kind of money. If you want to play on a level with Ross Perot, we need 200,000 members.

We doubled the party membership in the last two years. We need to double it again to 50,000 members in the next four years.

Willis says "The only way we can win is to have as many members as the Democrats and Republicans do, so that we can raise as much money as they do, and register as many voters as they have. It's that simple. There are no other answers. There are no magic bullets. There are no shortcuts."

The National LP has budgeted more than \$500,000 for membership recruitment in 1997. That's more than was ever spent on ballot access in a single year. They're also spending \$120,000 for advertising, another first in a non-presidential year, and will be conducting a scientific, nationwide public opinion poll to find out what the Libertarian Party's name identification and approval ratings are.

The National LP recognizes that membership is the key; YOU CAN HELP by joining or renewing your combined state and national membership, and by participating in outreach events to find those people who are natural libertarians. Please contact your local affiliate chairman today!

Calendar of Events

Special events are in bold type.

January

- 2 Libertarian Community of JeffCo, Lakewood Public Library, 10200 West 20th Ave., 7 p.m. Two-year planning session.
- 7 Ft. Collins 1st Tue. Breakfast Club, Tony's, 224 South College, 7 a.m. Speaker. Pat Hartman, (970) 224-3116.
- 8 LP of Boulder County Board Meeting, Mountain Mike's Pizza, King Soopers Plaza at 30th and Arapahoe, Boulder, 6 p.m.
- 8 LPC Board of Directors meeting, LPC office, 720 E. 18th, Denver, 6:30 p.m. Party members are welcome.
- 8 Adams County Libertarians, Coco's at Northglenn Mall, 104th & I-25, 7 p.m. Earl Allen, (303) 254-4978.
- 13 & 27 Aurora LP, Shoney's, 13700 E. Mississippi, 7 p.m. Doug Newman, (303) 363-4172.
- 14 Denver Activists, at the home of David Aitken, 1240 Ogden, #4, Denver, 7 p.m. Call (303) 831-4334 for details.
- 14 Summit County LP. Call John Sabal at (970) 262-6369 for details.
- 15 CSU Campus Libertarians, CSU Student Center. Bruce Lockhart, (970) 223-7504.
- 15 Common Sense Club of Routt Cty., Ramada Vacation Suites (formerly Overlook Lodge), Steamboat Springs, 7 p.m. Call (970) 879-4127.
- 17 San Luis Valley LP Monthly Meeting, Alamosa Inn, 1920 Main St. in Alamosa, dinner at 6:30 p.m. Bob Johnson, (719) 379-2767.
- 19 **Hemp/Cannabis Re-legalization Summit, sponsored by the Libertarian Party of Boulder County, Old Train Depot, 30th & Pearl in Boulder, 6 p.m. Call (303) 443-9179.**
- 20 **Martin Luther King Day March: Libertarians who wish to march under the Libertarian banner should meet at the main entrance to Denver's City Park, Columbine and Colfax at 10:30 a.m. Call Max Winkler at (303) 467-1254 or 761-4749 to confirm time.**
- 20 Ft. Collins 3rd Mon. Dinner Club, China Dragon Restaurant, 1401 W. Elizabeth, 7 p.m. Mary Margaret, (970) 484-8184.
- 23 Aspen Liberty Coalition, Pitkin County Library, 7 p.m. Tom Peckham, (970) 925-6027.

February

- 4 Ft. Collins 1st Tue. Breakfast Club, Tony's, 224 South College, 7 a.m. Speaker. Pat Hartman, (970) 224-3116.
- 6 Libertarian Community of Jefferson County. Lakewood Public Library, 10200 West 20th Avenue, 7 p.m.
- 10 & 24 Aurora LP, Shoney's, 13700 E. Mississippi, 7 p.m. Doug Newman, (303) 363-4172.
- 11 Denver Activists, at the home of David Aitken, 1240 Ogden, #4, Denver, 7 p.m. Call (303) 831-4334 for details.
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- 27 Aspen Liberty Coalition, Pitkin County Library, 7 p.m. Tom Peckham, (970) 925-6027.

April

- 18-20 **Libertarian Party of Colorado Annual Convention, YMCA of the Rockies, South of Estes Park on Hwy. 7. For more information, call Mary Margaret Glennie at (970) 484-8184.**

Please mail, fax, or e-mail any additions or corrections to the LPC office. Changes must be received by the 10th for the following month's issue.

From the Editor:

Let's End the War Against Marijuana

In 1937, the U.S. Congress passed the original Marijuana Tax Act after hearing disinformation and lies provided by the first Drug Czar, Harry Anslinger, whose hatred of blacks, Asians and Hispanics was comparable to Hitler's concurrent hatred of Jews.

Sixty years later, in 1997, President Bill Clinton, Drug Czar Barry McCaffrey and Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala continue to perpetuate the same hate-filled myths while demonstrating a chronic lack of understanding of the U.S. Constitution.

California and Arizona recently passed citizen initiatives legalizing marijuana to be prescribed by a doctor. The Clinton Administration seems to think it can negate a vote by the majority of the people in a state with a dismissive wave of its hand. I have previously pointed out that the 13th Amendment, the 14th Amendment and the 21st Amendment clearly combine to make all aspects of the Insane War on Drugs unconstitutional; now Clinton and his cronies are adding the 10th Amendment to the list of Constitutional amendments that the Drug War violates.

The 10th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution states: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

Nowhere does the Constitution say the federal government can regulate what substances individual citizens consume, nor does it prohibit states from legalizing such substances. The 21st Amendment very clearly states that American citizens have the right to become intoxicated, the 14th Amendment says all citizens share the same equal rights, and the 13th Amendment says you own your own body.

A most egregious statement about marijuana was made recently by Shalala, who said: "All available research has concluded that marijuana is dangerous to our health." Perhaps Shalala should be reminded of the comments made by one of the federal government's own, DEA Administrative Law Judge Francis Young, who reviewed all available facts and concluded that "marijuana, in its natural form, is one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to man."

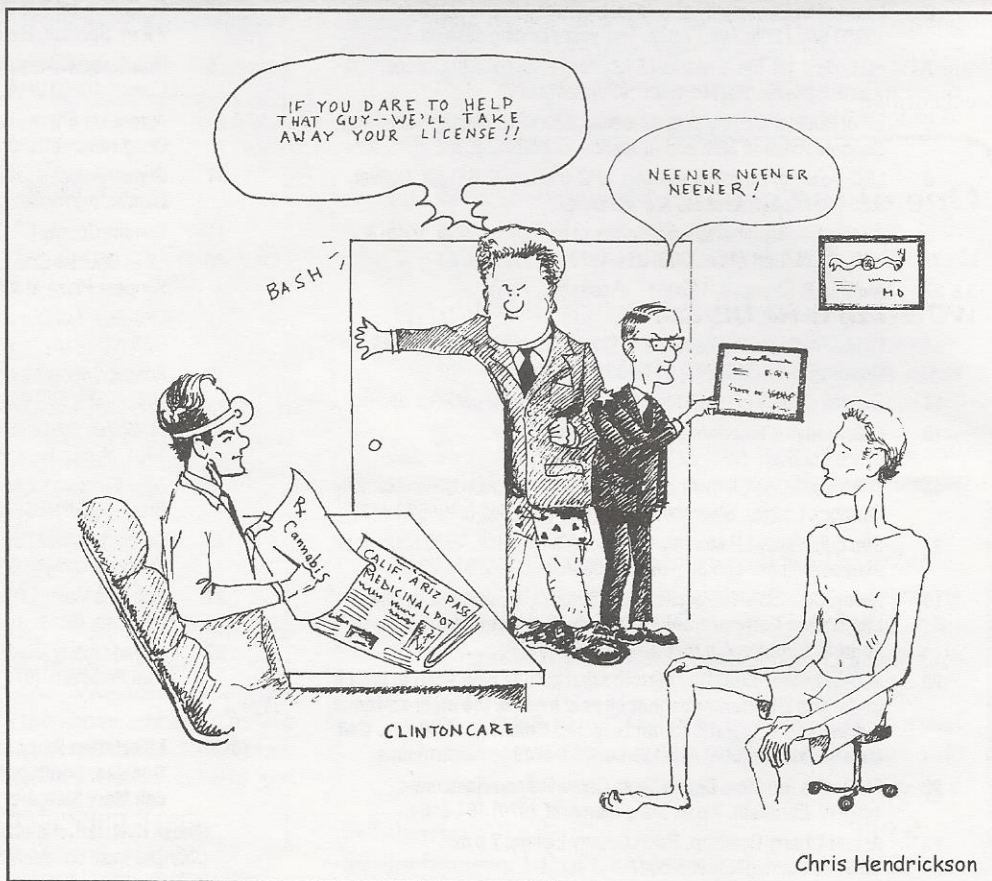
In fact, marijuana has repeatedly been proven to be beneficial to the health of people with glaucoma, AIDS or cancer because it relieves the pressure in the eye caused by glaucoma and stimulates the appetites of chemotherapy patients. As a home remedy, it is useful for relief of insomnia, hangovers, menstrual cramps, general stress, mild depression, asthma and headaches.

The vast majority of people in California and Arizona have decided that it's time to start letting glaucoma and chemotherapy patients have access to the drug that doctors say will help them avoid blindness or malnutrition. In Colorado, the time has also come to bring compassion, logic and rationality to our state laws regarding marijuana by at least re-legalizing medical and industrial uses of the cannabis sativa plant.

If you would like to participate in the Colorado effort to re-legalize the plant known alternately as hemp, cannabis or marijuana, please make a point of attending the upcoming Hemp/Cannabis Re-legalization Summit, scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 19 at 6 p.m. at the Old Train Depot in Boulder, 30th and Pearl.

The 60-year war against cannabis is virtually over; all that remains now is to negotiate the peace.

Ron Bain, Editor





To the Editor:

Medical Marijuana Successes Already Achieved in Colorado

Dear Ron:

I got your message about the upcoming meeting on medical marijuana. I am able to attend Jan. 19th and would like to be a part of a panel discussion on things we can do.

As you may already know, I passed a local medical marijuana ordinance in Breckenridge in 1994 by petitioning to place a question on the ballot and then campaigning for it. The Breckenridge ordinance was modeled after California's successful 1991 Proposition P. It makes arrest or prosecution of marijuana use for medical purposes under a doctor's supervision the town's lowest priority.

I then went to the neighboring town of Frisco and persuaded the town council to pass a resolution supporting medical marijuana use. Since then, I have been advocating activists in other Colorado towns pass similar local ordinances or resolutions. Telluride was a subsequent success story for us, passing a pro medical marijuana resolution modeled after Frisco's, using information supplied by us to an activist in that town.

I look forward to sharing the procedures and strategies I have used to increase awareness of medical marijuana and bring us closer to our goal of making marijuana available to those whom it helps. I am very encouraged by the recent successes in California and Arizona and would like to see Colorado contribute more toward the effort.

Sincerely,

Doug Malkan
Breckenridge

One of the greatest delusions in the world is the hope that the evils in this world are to be cured by legislation.

— Thomas B. Reed: Speech in the House of Representatives, 1886

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SPECIAL RATES FOR LIBERTARIANS**

Legalization: Focus on Freedom, Not Paternalistic Safety

In response to the Rev. Michael Domangue's letter in the December edition of *Colorado Liberty*, I agree that "children are lied to about marijuana from a young age." I must disagree, however, that "in 10,000 years, marijuana has not caused one death." Directly, maybe; but indirectly, I'm sure this is a *very* false statement. How many have been killed in marijuana-related auto or other accidents, or perhaps driven to suicide due to their drug abuse? Just because the statistics don't exist doesn't mean the victims don't. I'm certain there are friends and loved ones out there who would agree.

Please, let's not substitute our own "hysterical rhetoric" for that of the government. Marijuana can be "safe and useful" if used rationally; but to claim it is *absolutely not harmful at all* destroys the credibility of both the speaker and the Libertarian Party.

To succeed, legalization arguments must center on personal freedom, not paternalistic safety. If you truly seek *rational* discussion on drug legalization, you cannot start by denying that drugs can and sometimes do have drawbacks.

Daniel P. Bryce
Westminster

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Election Scorecard

In Campaign '96, the Libertarian Party won some significant victories — but suffered a few setbacks

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY emerged from the 1996 elections with its second-best presidential vote total ever, seven Libertarians elected or re-elected to office, numerous candidates scoring in the double-digit range, record membership, and ballot status in a record number of states.

However, the party also suffered some high-profile election disappointments — and also saw increased competition from other third parties erode its vote totals in some races.

Starting at the top of the ticket, Libertarian presidential candidate **Harry Browne** won almost half a million votes — the second highest vote in party history.

The Harry Browne/Jo Jorgensen ticket received 471,000 votes — just over .5% of the popular vote — which represented a 62% increase in votes over the party's 1992 totals, when LP candidate Andre Marrou received 291,000 votes. Browne's vote totals ranked behind only 1980 presidential candidate Ed Clark, who won 921,000 votes.

The results show that "we have to start tomorrow, building a larger Libertarian Party," said Browne in a speech at his Election Night party. "We have to elevate the party to the next level. We've gone from the crawling stage to the walking stage — and we're getting ready for the running stage."

BROWNE'S VOTE total was lower than some activists had anticipated, given Browne's appearances on the Larry King show, on cable TV networks, and on hundreds of radio talk shows. Supporters also hoped for more of a boost from his popular book, *Why Government Doesn't Work*, and from hundreds of thousands of dollars in radio and TV advertising.

But the reality, argued an AllPolitics World Wide Web site political analyst, was that

despite "a tireless string of radio and television interviews . . . the mainstream media, for the most part, ignored Browne, as it did other third party and independent candidates" — so Browne could not "propel [his] candidacy into the average American home."

Despite the lack of a major media breakthrough, Browne said the party had taken "many giant steps forward" because of his campaign.

"We have opened the door this year," he said. "Far more people know of the Libertarian

■ 1996 Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne: "We have opened the door this year."



Party and the ideas we stand for."

In terms of concrete accomplishments, Browne pointed out, "We doubled the party's membership in just the past two years. And thanks to this campaign, everyone in politics and the media knows who we are and what we stand for. All of us have so much to be proud of. What we have achieved will bear fruit in the near future."

For the party to move to the next level of electoral success, Browne said, "We simply need to have it heard by more people between now and the next election. We have to build a party that is so big that we make it possible for us to be in the thick of things in 2000."

To help accomplish that goal, Browne promised to remain active as a spokesman for the LP and "speak out for the party wherever possible — appearing on talk radio, television, and in print — letting people know there is hope for America."

In examining the election results, Campaign Director Sharon Ayres said the "Perot Factor" also impacted on Browne's vote totals.

"Just as in 1992, we were up against Ross Perot," she said. "We faced a well-financed billionaire who echoed the Libertarian Party's critique of the fiscal irresponsibility of the Republicans and Democrats — but who had \$30 million to publicize himself. Obviously, Perot picked up a lot of the generic protest vote."

AYRES ALSO NOTED that the ballot was cluttered this year with an exceptionally large number of other "third-party" candidates for president — further diluting the anti-Republican, anti-Democratic vote.

Browne beat most of the third-party challengers, including Howard Phillips of the U.S. Taxpayer's Party (who got just 178,000 votes) and John Hagelin of the Natural Law Party (110,000 votes). However, a late 215,000-vote surge in California pushed well-known consumer advocate and Green Party candidate Ralph Nader past Browne with a surprising 580,000 votes.

In state and local races, the LP continued its winning streak, electing four new Libertarians to office:

■ In Michigan, Brett Cashman was elected as Superior Township Parks Commissioner (Washtenaw County), and **Brian Wisneski** won office as a Clinton Township Trustee (Lenawee County). Both offices are partisan.

"This is the first time our candidates have gone head-to-head in a general election and got elected," said Emily Salvette, State Chair of Michigan. "[These victories] tell me that at the local level, we are getting the message out, and we can win these races."

■ In Alabama, two Libertarians were elected to the non-parti-

Election Scorecard '96

Continued

san office of Constable: **John O'Donnell Rosales** and **Steve Fischbach**, in Mobile.

Three Libertarians were re-elected:

■ In Oregon, **Maurice Aho** was re-elected to a seat on the six-member, non-partisan Molalla City Council. Aho had already served one two-year term.

■ In California, **Tom Tryon** was re-elected as Calaveras County Supervisor with 54.5% of the vote. Tryon, currently the party's longest-serving elected official, was returned to office for a fourth term.

■ Also in California, **Dennis Schlumpf** was re-elected as a director of the Tahoe City Public Utilities District Board.

On a disappointing note, two high-profile Libertarians went down to defeat.

■ In New Hampshire, incumbent State Representative **Don Gorman** finished third in his three-way race with 23.5% of the vote. Unlike previous wins, Gorman was not able to pick up the cross-nomination of another party, and was defeated by a Democrat, who won with 43.5% of the vote.

"Although my record as a member of the N.H. House for the past two sessions was honorable and much respected by other House members, it was impossible to beat the Republican straight-ticket voters and the well-organized, well-funded Democratic organization," said Gorman afterwards.



■ Michigan candidate **Jon Coon**

BUT THE FORMER Libertarian House Leader expressed confidence that the LP would win back its place in the N.H. House. "I feel sure that this will not be the end of the Libertarian presence, despite the setback we've suffered this time," he said.

■ In Michigan, **Jon Coon** came in third in his three-way race for State Representative with 15.7% of the vote. Coon was beaten by the popular Democratic incumbent (who won 68% of the vote in a heavily unionized, heavily Democratic district), and finished a fraction of a point behind the Republican.

"It would be difficult to point to anything that the [Coon] campaign did wrong," said Ron Crickenberger, the head of the LP Campaign Committee. "Their main obstacle was a heavily Democratic district, and an incumbent without any big negatives to run against. This race, even more than most, is an example of how we

need to build a bigger army of members in order to achieve regular electoral success."

A final interesting note about both the NH and Michigan defeats: The White House played a role in both races. "President Bill Clinton himself came in to campaign against Coon, speaking at a rally for the incumbent Democrat," noted Crickenberger. "[In the Gorman race], Tipper Gore came in to campaign for the Democrat. Is there a pattern here?"

In total votes for LP candidates around the nation, the party showed some gains and some losses compared to previous elections.

Cumulatively, 1996 LP candidates for U.S. House, U.S. Senate, and governor garnered 1,161,000 votes, down from 1994's 1,460,000 votes.

The decline was explained by several factors: An increased focus on lower-level races, a decline in the number of LP candidates for governor, and the fact that substantially more third party candidates were on the ballot, scrambling for votes.

For example, in California, Libertarian National Committee member Joe Dehn noted, "Increased competition from other alternative parties appears to have resulted in lower percentages in the partisan races. In 1994, most of our candidates, 19 out of 30, were running in three-way races; in 1996, only eight of 42 were in three-way races. In 1994, only one of our candidates was in a five-way race; in 1996 there were 15 such cases!"

However, the total estimated number of people voting Libertarian remained stable at about 2.2 million, and the total number of votes cast for LP candidates in federal and statewide races jumped to al-

most 5.4 million.

That number was boosted by an unprecedented 10 LP candidates who cracked the lofty 100,000 mark in votes.

■ In Texas, **John Hawley** won 16% of the vote in his campaign for State Supreme Court, gaining 611,000



■ New Hampshire's **Don Gorman**

votes. Trailing behind him for other seats on the high court were **David Parker** (162,000 votes), **Eileen Flume** (189,000 votes), and **Thomas Stults** (129,000 votes). In a race for Railroad Commissioner, **Richard Draheim** won 102,000 votes.

■ In Pennsylvania, **Sharon Shepps** (Auditor General) won 103,000 votes.

■ In Michigan, **Diane Barnes** (State

Board of Education) won 153,000 votes; **William Hall** (University of Michigan Regent) won 119,000 votes; **Michael Miller** (Michigan State University Trustee) 110,000 votes; and **Stacy VanOst** (Wayne State University Governor) won 107,000 votes.

Plus, almost two dozen LP candidates won more than 20% of the vote in two- and three-way races for various state and local offices.

On the ballot access front, the party emerged from the 1996 elections in its strongest position ever following a presidential election. The party earned ballot status in 22 states, compared to its previous best total of 18 states in 1992.

"In 22 states, we can concentrate our efforts on getting people elected. We don't have to spend our time and money to get on the

ballot," said National LP Chair Steve Dasbach.

The party is on the ballot in Arizona, California, Delaware,

Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. (The LP also remained a "qualified" party in Pennsylvania, but must still petition to get candidates on the ballot.)

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ballot access victory, said Dasbach, was in West Virginia — "probably the single most difficult ballot drive we faced, due to the onerous requirements." Besides saving more than \$25,000 in ballot access costs, the LP also became the first third party since 1924 to earn "major party" status in West Virginia.

A few final pieces of good news for Libertarians: Although the sentiment did not translate into a surge of votes for LP candidates this year, a post-election poll by the Associated Press revealed that 52% of voters in the '96 election agreed that "government is doing too many things best left to business and individuals." And a *New York Times* poll discovered that only 20% of voters think government can be trusted most or all of the time.

That's more evidence, said Harry Browne after the election, that "a great majority of the American people would like to vote for someone who would make government smaller, less expensive, and less intrusive. What is missing [from the Libertarian Party] is the ability to let all Americans know what we offer.

"The only sure way to acquire that ability is through the steady building of party membership, which will lead to the money necessary to attract attention, which will lead to the media coverage that will make us part of the national discussion," he said. "So let's get started now building the party to the magnitude necessary for every American to know what we can give them. *Let's begin now!*"

COST Reaching Out to LPC to Form Coalition

Two respected members of the Libertarian Party of Colorado, Doug Anderson and David Aitken, were invited to a December meeting of Citizens Opposed to the Stadium Tax (COST) along with three Republican state legislators, including Penn Pfiffner, a former state chairman of the LPC. The meeting focused on introductions, general discussion and organization.

COST, much of the membership of which consists of north-west Denver Democrats, is seeking allies from all corners of the political spectrum and had previously sent a fund-raising letter to Denver-area Libertarians, apparently recognizing the LP's principled opposition to taxes of all kinds.

COST plans to undertake a grass-roots campaign against the proposed Broncos stadium tax. A survey of Libertarian Party leaders in the affected six-county area indicated widespread support for COST as well as for an independent Libertarian radio campaign against the stadium tax. The radio ads would

focus on positive alternatives and mention the Libertarian Party.

This was the conclusion of a group that included State Treasurer Cooper Jager, Adams County Chairman Earl Allen, Boulder County Chairman Chris Bogart, Aurora County Chairman Doug Newman and Jefferson County Chairman Gerald Hatch following a report by Aitken and Anderson. In general, their assessment was as follows: it's good that a group is forming to fight the stadium tax and that they realize the need for a broad-based coalition to achieve the goal, but COST doesn't seem to have much of a financial or philosophical base; they're a single-issue group without much long-term benefit to the Libertarian Party.

Nonetheless, the Broncos stadium tax must be nipped in the bud before it becomes a reality like Coors Field. Organizing efforts are underway; to help, contact your county chair.

Half a Slate in '98 Planned, *continued from page 1*

opportunity in years to match the spending of Democrat and Republican candidates, Anderson continued.

"Both the party and the candidates will enjoy extra media attention due to the number of candidates running," Anderson stated. Already, Anderson has developed Candidate Recruiters in most of the state's six Congressional districts; these people will recruit the candidates, writers, campaign managers, fund-raisers and volunteers making up Project Half a Slate in '98.

Anderson plans to raise \$7,000 in 1997 and early 1998, which will allow the state party to finance petitioning, yard signs, press releases, photographs and brochures for each of the 32 candidates. About seven of the most serious candidates—those running to win—will get additional support from the state party, such as a statewide fund-raising letter and tracking polls.

"But the heart of Project Half a Slate in '98 is locating a large number of Libertarians to run in 1998 as educational/lineholder candidates," Anderson said. "Past experience has shown Libertarians to be shy about asking others to help on their

campaigns. So rather than change the nature of Libertarians, we'll use paid petitioners to minimize the time commitment for our lineholder candidates."

State Chair Sandra Johnson encouraged anyone thinking about running as a participant in Project Half a Slate in '98 to contact the Candidate Recruiter in their Congressional district (see Directory on p. 11). Fund-raising Chair Bette Rose Smith also encouraged all Colorado Libertarians to respond favorably to a Project Half a Slate in '98 fund-raising letter mailed in January.

During discussion, former State House candidate Kevin Wilkerson noted that Boulder newspapers covered his candidacy partly because of the Libertarian Presidential and Congressional candidates on the ballot with him. A reporter wrote that "you could almost vote a full slate of Libertarians," Wilkerson recalled.

Anderson picked up on this thought by observing that any investment of \$7,000 in campaigning must be measured by real world standards.

"A full-page ad in the *Denver Post* costs \$10,000, so by running this historic number of candidates and by looking professional, we must show a return on our investment of at least a page of free press exposing voters to America's Third Party," Anderson stated.

Re-legalization Summit, *continued from page 1*

The Re-legalization Summit will be held Sunday, Jan. 19th, at 6 p.m. at the Old Train Depot in Boulder; you'll find the depot at 30th and Pearl near Ace Liquors, the Mann Crossroads 6 theaters and BEST Appliances.

The panel presentation will be followed by a question and answer session and an opportunity for audience members to speak. Topics to be discussed will include, but not be limited to, current legislative efforts, upcoming political campaigns, possible citizens' initiatives, civil disobedience, how other states and communities achieved success, lobbying and fund-raising.

All Libertarians, reporters and interested members of the public are invited to attend. For more information, call (303) 443-9179.

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Affiliate Corner

Libertarian Community of Jefferson County

Acting on an idea developed by the Long-Term Strategic Planning Group, the Libertarian Community of Jefferson County is currently compiling names of persons interested in forming a regional public speaking group for activists trying to become better spokespersons for liberty.

"We'll have to think of a different name, but it's like a Libertarian 'Toastmasters'—a dinner meeting with talks centered around libertarian principles, to become better speakers, projectors of libertarian thought," stated LCJC Forum Team Leader Tom Goonan,

Participants would be assigned speaking topics of five to ten minutes, and then would receive constructive criticism and pointers from the audience members, Goonan explained. There would also be chances to develop impromptu speaking skills, he said.

To indicate your interest in this new regional group, contact Tom Goonan at 278-1898 or 236-8747, Ext. 228, or e-mail him at goonan@usgs.gov to leave an electronic message.

Goonan recently spoke before a group of fourth graders at Cory Elementary School in Lakewood.

Denver Libertarian Party

Members of the Denver Libertarian Party elected new officers at their December meeting. David Aitken is now chairman, replacing Bert Wiener, who is now secretary/treasurer. Bill Robinson continues to serve as program director.

Proposed chapter bylaws were distributed at the December meeting. The entire Denver membership is invited to vote upon these during the January meeting, to be held at the home of David Aitken, 1240 Ogden #4, on Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 7 p.m.

Aitken plans to focus on outreach and membership growth during his term in office. "Your ideas and participation will be welcome and appreciated," he said.

Libertarian Party of Boulder County

The LPBC in January is hosting the Hemp/Cannabis Re-legalization Summit, featuring a panel of distinguished guests, including State Sen. Lloyd Casey, Boulder County Commissioner Paul Danish, NORML attorney Warren Edson, medical marijuana advocate Doug Malkan of Breckenridge, and jury rights activist Laura Kriho.

The summit meeting, to be held Sunday, Jan. 19th, at 6 p.m. at the Old Train Depot near 30th and Pearl in Boulder, will be hosted and moderated by event organizer Ron Bain, the LPBC Publicity Director. For more information, contact Bain at (303) 443-9179 or see related articles in this issue.

Common Sense Club of Routt County

The Common Sense Club of Routt County, a libertarian discussion group chaired by long-time activist Bob Jahelka, is now meeting on the third Wednesday of each month at the Ramada Vacation Suites (formerly known as the Overlook Lodge) in Steamboat Springs.

The January meeting will be on Wednesday the 15th and the February meeting will be Wednesday the 19th. Meetings begin at 7 p.m.

All interested Routt County residents are invited. "We're looking for new blood. With that comes new ideas," commented Jahelka. Although most of the members are Libertarians, the presence of a few non-libertarians and libertarian sympathizers already in the 10-member group should make just about anyone feel welcome.

For more information, contact Bob Jahelka at (970) 879-4127.

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Random Notes

Libertarians Challenge Campaign Finance Reform Act

The Libertarian Party of Colorado, the Denver Libertarian Party, Sandra Johnson, Doug Anderson, David Aitken, and several other individuals and groups are plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the State of Colorado regarding the recently passed Campaign Finance Reform Act.

The suit, filed by the Independence Institute, charges Colorado with violating the free speech and equal protection clauses of the U.S. Constitution.

Adopt a Precinct Contest Results in Tie

Geoff Lloyd, organizer of the Adopt a Precinct '96 contest, has announced the results of that contest: a tie!

Contest participants "adopted" one or more election precincts for a \$10 fee and worked to maximize LP Presidential candidate Harry Browne's vote totals in their adopted precincts. The contest offered a \$1000 prize to the participant whose adopted precinct produced the highest vote total for Browne. Patrick Lilly of Colorado Springs and Chuck Wright of Louisville will share that prize.

Congratulations to the two winners, thanks to everyone who participated in this project to help get more Libertarian votes, and kudos to Geoff Lloyd for all of his hard work on the contest.

Sign Up to Be a Legislative Aide

If you have two or three days per week to spare during the Colorado Legislature's session from January to May you might want to consider volunteering to work at the State Capitol as a Legislative Aide.

You'll gain an inside look at how Colorado's government works—at no pay, but you'll learn a lot and have fun. Skills required include diplomacy, office management experience, professional telephone demeanor, letter writing skills, willingness to fight the bureaucracy for constituents, and the ability to recruit speakers to testify on proposed legislation.

For more information, contact State Chair Sandra Johnson at (719) 379-2767 or Campaigns Director Doug Anderson at (303) 698-2651.

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LP to Join Martin Luther King Day March on Jan. 20

Denver metro area Libertarians will be participating in the Martin Luther King Day Rally and March on Monday, Jan. 20. The march proceeds from Denver City Park to the State Capitol.

According to LP march organizer Max Winkler, serious research into the works of Dr. King clearly shows him not to be a proponent of Affirmative Action and other corruptions of the civil rights movement. Rather, King was a proponent of social changes in America that likely prevented a bloody conflict between racial factions.

The LP contingent will meet at the entrance to City Park at Colfax Avenue and Columbine Street at 10:30 a.m. to assemble under the Libertarian banner. The group will then march along the parade route to the Capitol. Arrangements for a shuttle ride back to the meeting point can be made by calling Winkler at (303) 467-1254 or (303) 761-4749.

Interested marchers should call Winkler the day before the march to confirm meeting times, due to possible last-minute changes, and to arrange shuttle pickup.

Let's return the idea of liberty to the struggle that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. began!

Kudos to the White Tornado that Cleaned the Office

LPC Board members arriving at a recent meeting of the Board of Directors did not recognize the LPC headquarters office—it has been scoured, scrubbed, cleaned, vacuumed, reorganized and painted! Even the windows were washed!

The prime instigator was Fund-raising Director BetteRose Smith (who said she couldn't stand working in the office's previous incarnation), with lots of help from Affiliates Director Deb Bishop and volunteer Bill Fargo.

Harry Browne's Final Vote Total Grows by 14,000

The final vote total for presidential candidate Harry Browne is 485,120, according to Richard Winger of *Ballot Access News*. That's over 14,000 higher than the number reported shortly after the election. Winger attributed most of the increase to absentee ballots in Washington and Oregon that were counted very late. The final vote total represents a 66.7% increase over the LP's 1992 presidential vote total.

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Libertarian Party Directory

Libertarian Party - US

National HQ (202) 333-0008
2600 Virginia Ave. NW, #100, Washington DC 20037

National Chair
Steve Dasbach (219) 432-7145
4523 Morning Wind Pl., Ft. Wayne IN 46804

LNC Regional Representative
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13403 Paramount Street, Hagerstown MD 21742

New Member Info 1-800-682-1776
LP Nat'l Newslne 1-900-4Libert
\$1.95/minute (454-2378)
Election results, Congress Watch, LP news

Libertarian Party of Colorado

State LP Office (303) 837-9393
Toll-Free Info 1-800-211-5214
720 E. 18th Ave. #309, Denver CO 80203

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E-mail: shaw.rick@tcinc.com

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P.O. Box 9766, Aspen CO 81612

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Fort Collins "Freedom Now"
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Fremont County LP
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Jefferson County LP
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7030 Saulsbury Street, Arvada CO 80003
E-mail: goonan@usgs.gov

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424 E. 11th, Leadville CO 80461

Libertarian Homeschoolers
Bob Hogan (303) 978-9803
38 Blue Sage, Littleton CO 80123

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Routt County "Common Sense Club"
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E-mail: sdj@rmii.com

Southwestern Colorado Libertarians
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FAX: (970) 385-5226

Summit County Libertarians
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P.O. Box 958, Frisco CO 80443

Western Colorado Libertarians
Brent Shroyer 970-675-2337
PO Box 292, Rangely CO 81648

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Cate Varhely (719) 589-6880
523 Bell Court, Alamosa CO 81101

CSU Campus Libertarians
Bruce Lockhart (303) 223-7504
2500 E. Harmony Rd. #71, Ft. Collins CO 80525

Red Rocks Community College
Libertarians
Doug Turner (303) 278-3027
1460 Kendrick St., Golden CO 80401

UCCS Campus Libertarians
Robert Cramer (719) 637-8078

University of Southern Colorado
Libertarians
Ed Trivett (719) 545-1913
207 Bonnymede, Pueblo CO 81001

Candidate Recruiters

U.S. Congressional District 1
David Segal (303) 296-4059
2943 Vine Street, Denver CO 80205

U.S. Congressional District 2
Vacant and available; to volunteer, contact Doug
Anderson at (303) 698-2651.

U.S. Congressional District 3
Carol Stuckey Hill (719) 486-3130
424 East 11th, Leadville CO 80461

U.S. Congressional District 4
Randy Fitzgerald (970) 223-6025
413 Skysail Lane, Fort Collins CO 80525

U.S. Congressional District 5
Kirsten Parry (719) 447-0646
2610 E. Fountain Blvd. #119, Colo. Springs CO 80910

U.S. Congressional District 6
Bob Hogan (303) 978-9803
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